

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Akio Uchiyama, et al.

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Dated: March 25, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 6,069,698, dated May 30, 2000, issued to Ozawa et al.;
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,321,501, dated June 14, 1994, issued to Swanson et al.;
3. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 11-72431, published March 16, 1999 together with an English language abstract;

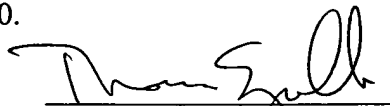
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: March 25, 2004

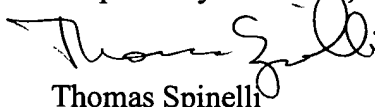

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4. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. 2000-126115, published May 9, 2000 together with an English language abstract;
5. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 11-148897, published June 2, 1999 together with an English language abstract;
6. Japanese Patent Application Laid Open No. 7-243965, published September 19, 1995 together with an English language abstract; and
7. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 6-511312, dated December 15, 1994 together with corresponding International Publication No. WO 92/19930, published November 12, 1992.

Applicants are submitting copies of references 3-7. References 1 and 2 are not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of references 3-5 and 6 has been described in the specification. Applicants also submit herewith an International Search Report dated February 18, 2003. References 4-7 have been described in the Search Report.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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